Auction of oil and gas blocks

4062. SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to auction a large number of new oil and natural gas exploration blocks over the next two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total estimated yield of crude oil and gas respectively from these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) With a view to attract private investment including foreign investment for exploration and exploitation of Hydrocarbon resources in the 26 sedimentary basins of the country covering onland and offshore areas, the Government has been inviting bids from private companies on a regular basis since, 1991. To give further impetus to the exploration efforts, the Government has formulated the New exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) which provides equal opportunities and a level playing field to foreign companies and Indian companies, both Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private companies to bid for exploration acreages, offered by the Government from time to time. Exploration activities including identification and offer of blocks through NELP is a continuous and ongoing process. The Government of India, on 23rd February, 2006, has offered 55 blocks comprising of 24 deep water, 6 shallow water and 25 onshore blocks under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI). The bid closing date for these blocks is 15th September, 2006. These are exploration blocks where exploration of oil and gas is proposed to be carried out. The exploration period for these blocks is 7-8 years. Being exploration blocks, oil and gas reserves have to be established through exploration, hence any estimation of reserves would be pre-mature.

LPG Distributors at Jashpurnagar

4063. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3709 given in Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2005 and state: